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04.17.02

PATENT  
Docket No.: 19603/1451 (CRF D-2008A)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Xin-Yun Huang

Serial No: 09/273,217

Cnfrm. No.: 6809

Filed: March 19, 1999

For: METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC ION  
CHANNEL BLOCKERS

Examiner:  
N. Basi

Art Unit:  
1646

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
Box: AF

Dear Sir:

In response to the December 4, 2001, office action, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 19, and 20 as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method of identifying an ion channel blocker for an ion channel comprising:
- providing an external vestibule portion of an ion channel, wherein said external vestibule portion is the portion of the ion channel located between the S5 transmembrane and pore forming region of the ion channel or between the pore forming region and the S6 transmembrane of the ion channel, and
- identifying, as an ion channel blocker for an ion channel, an antibody, binding portion of the antibody, probe, or ligand which antibody, binding portion of the antibody, probe, or ligand binds to the external vestibule portion of the ion channel and is effective to inhibit ion transport through the ion channel.